

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An original cover of an image reading apparatus, comprising:

a cover member for covering an original placed on an original stand;

a hinge member having one end thereof pivotally supported by a rotary shaft on said cover member and having the other end thereof mounted on and pivotally supported by said original stand; and

a spring configured and positioned to eliminate the play between said hinge member and said cover member in ~~the axial~~ a direction of said hinge member parallel to said rotary shaft, thereby making constant the axial positional relation between said hinge member and said cover member by biasing said cover member in a direction parallel to ~~an axis of a~~ said rotary shaft of said hinge member, wherein said cover member is also biased in a direction in which said cover member is opened with respect to said hinge member.

2. (Previously Presented) The original cover according to Claim 1, wherein said hinge member is pivotally supported by an area other than an end portion of said cover member.

3. (Original) The original cover according to Claim 1, wherein said cover member has its pivotally movable range restricted with respect to said hinge member.

4. (Previously Presented) The original cover according to Claim 3, wherein at least one of said cover member and said hinge member is provided with a restricting portion for restricting the pivotally movable range of said cover member in the direction in which said cover member is opened with respect to said hinge member.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The original cover according to Claim 1, wherein said spring is a torsion coil spring.

8-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus comprising:  
an original cover as recited in Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, or 7; and  
image reading means for reading image information of an original placed on an original stand.